

Message Text

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51
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 PA-02

USIA-15 DODE-00 PM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /082 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 094677

R 270008Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 26, 1975:

Q. AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS MORNING. DID THEY DISCUSS LEAKS?

A. AMBASSADOR DINITZ MADE A BRIEF CALL THIS MORNING ON
SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE SECRETARY'S WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO PRESIDENT
FORD EXPRESSING THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPRECIATION FOR THE
COURTESIES EXTENDED TO HIM DURING HIS RECENT VISIT.

Q. AND NOTHING ABOUT SORROW FOR ANYTHING ELSE?

A. THAT IS ALL I KNOW.

Q. YOU ARE NOT RULING OUT THAT THERE WERE OTHER SUBJECTS
DISCUSSED?

A. NO. I AM JUST SAYING THAT THIS WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE
CALL. IT WAS A BRIEF CALL.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE
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PRESIDENT AND AMBASSADOR TOON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT MEETING.
AMBASSADOR TOON WILL BE LEAVING THIS WEEKEND FOR ISRAEL,
AND IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO MAKE A FINAL CALL
ON THE PRESIDENT.

Q. DO WE HAVE A RESPONSE FROM EGYPT WHICH HE WILL BE
CARRYING BACK TO ISRAEL?

A. WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS, WE ARE
JUST NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL
EXCHANGES IN THIS WHOLE MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT.

Q. HAS A LETTER BEEN RECEIVED FROM EGYPT ON THEIR RE-ACTION -- WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE CONTENTS OF IT. DO WE HAVE A MESSAGE OR A LETTER OR A STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT SADAT THAT HAS JUST COME IN IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO ON WHAT RABIN SAID ISRAEL WAS WILLING TO DO WHEN HE WAS HERE?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION. IN ANY CASE, I WOULDN'T GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF IT, BUT AS YOU KNOW, IN TERMS OF THE OVERALL EFFORT, AS WE HAVE SAID, WE ARE IN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q. WHILE WE ARE ON THAT AREA, YESTERDAY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, PARTLY IN BEHALF OF THE WHITE HOUSE, HAD A STATEMENT THAT SOME PEOPLE TOOK AS A REPROACH OR A REBUKE OF ISRAEL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OF A PURPORTED PROPOSAL REGARDING THE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AND THE REACTION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS SOMEWHAT UNHAPPY AND FOR ONE THING THEY DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A NEW PROPOSAL INVOLVED. FOR ANOTHER, THEY THOUGHT THE LEAK CAME FROM WASHINGTON. BUT, IN ANY EVENT, THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE BEING ATTACKED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THEIR REACTION?

A. NO, I DON'T. MOREOVER, I POINT OUT, AS AMBASSADOR
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ANDERSON VERY CAREFULLY STATED WHEN HE WAS ASKED, HE DIDN'T SAY WHO IT WAS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST. THE STATEMENT STANDS ON ITS OWN WORDS, WHICH WAS A STATEMENT STATING THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO ENGAGE IN COMPETITIVE

LEAKS, AND HE DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS HELPFUL TO THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT.

Q. BOB, IS IT OFFICIAL U.S. POLICY THAT THERE MUST BE RECTIFICATION OF L967 BORDERS?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE EVER TAKEN A POSITION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. AS YOU KNOW, OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE TOWARD HELPING THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MAKE PROGRESS IN THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS.

Q. I DON'T THINK YOU ARE RIGHT, YOU KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY "WE." THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION UNDER AN EARLIER SECRETARY OF STATE STATED THE U.S. POSITION SEVERAL TIMES. MR. ROGERS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT -- I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE HIM VERBATIM -- HE SAID, "INSUBSTANTIAL RECTIFICATION, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS OF THE BORDERS ARE

PERMISSIBLE."

IS THIS STILL U.S. POLICY?

A. WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT HERE ON PREVIOUS PLANS OR STATEMENTS. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ARE THE CURRENT EFFORTS IN TRYING TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

Q. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, IS HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN STATED POLICY?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT IN CURRENT EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BY PRESIDENT FORD AT THIS STAGE IN EFFORTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT, WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY POSITION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS HELP THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MAKE PROGRESS.

Q. WHEN AMBASSADOR TOON TOLD ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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HE THINKS THERE SHOULD BE SOME MODIFICATIONS WAS HE EXPREU-SING HIS OWN POINT OF VIEW?

A. THAT'S WHAT HE SAID. HE SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. HE WASN'T EXPRESSING STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY, THE POLICY THAT ENDRE OUTLINED, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I WAS STATING WHAT I UNDERSTAND OUR POLICY TO BE. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. TOON WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED WHEN HE SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. BUT THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN THE PERSONAL OPINION OF AN AMBASSADOR COINCIDES WITH THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, I WOULD THINK, AND PERHAPS THIS WAS ONE SUCH SITUATION. BESIDES EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL OPINION, WAS HE EXPRESSING THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT? OR HAS THAT POSITION CHANGED?

A. OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE -- AND OBVIOUSLY IT'S THE INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR TOON THAT PROMPTED THIS SERIES OF QUESTIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE, -- AND MY RESPONSE STANDS TO THE INITIAL QUESTION.

Q. IS IT NOT UNUSUAL THAT AN AMBASSADOR SHOULD VOICE PERSONAL OPINIONS?

A. I DON'T THINK IT'S SO UNUSUAL. AMERICAN AMBASSADORS FREQUENTLY EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINIONS.

Q. ISN'T HE REFLECTING AMERICAN POLICY?

A. HE SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. BUT WE'RE IN A SITUATION WHERE HIS PERSONAL OPINION
HAPPENS TO COINCIDE WITH THE ONLY KNOWN POSITION TAKEN ON
A FINAL SETTLEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. ARE
WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS HAS CHANGED BY WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING, HAS NOT CHANGED, THAT YOU'VE WITHDRAWN THAT PRO-
POSAL? IT LEAVES US IN A RATHER ODD POSITION.

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A. MY RECOLLECTION OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN SAID IN
RECENT MONTHS ON THIS ISSUE, I THINK, HAS BEEN BRIEFLY
SUMMARIZED IN MY INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION. AND
THAT IS THAT WE HAVEN'T TAKEN A POSITION ON SUCH SUBSTAN-
TIVE ISSUES AND THAT OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED
TOWARD HELPING THE PARTIES MAKE PROGRESS IN THE PEACE-
MAKING PROCESS. AND OUR EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. WELL THEN, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING THEN IS WE HAVE NOT
TAKEN A POSITION. YOU'RE SAYING "WE," MEANING WHO,
SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD AND THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT?

A. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. THEREFORE, THIS CURRENT EXISTING U.S. GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WISH TO --

A. PUBLICLY DISCUSS.

Q. -- RE-EXPRESS -- IS KNOCKING DOWN A POSITION OF A
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WHEN THE CURRENT SECRETARY OF
STATE WAS THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER?

A. I'M JUST GOING TO LEAVE IT WHERE I ANSWERED IT IN THE
FIRST QUESTION, AND THAT IS THE POSITION.

Q. WHAT WE'RE GETTING BACK TO IS THE AMERICAN POSITION
NOW ON --

A. I UNDERSTAND.

Q. UNRESOLUTION 242. IS IT IN SUPPORT OF THAT OR NOT?

A. I'M JUST GOING TO STAND WITH THE SEVERAL VARIATIONS OF
THE SAME ANSWER TO THE SAME QUESTION.

Q. IT COULD BE A VERY DRAMATIC CHANGE.

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A. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON IT.

Q. YOU MEAN THERE IS NO ANSWER AS TO WHETHER WE SUPPORT 242?

A. THE GENERAL QUESTION IS THAT WE HAVE NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY QUESTION ABOUT 242.

Q. BUT YOU'RE NOT ADVISING US TO SHELVE THE ROGERS PLAN OR FORMULATION?

A. I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STAND ON WHAT I JUST SAID.

Q. I AGREE YOU'RE IN AN AWKWARD POSITION, BUT THE SECRETARY IN ATLANTA SAID THAT EVENTUALLY A FINAL SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH JERUSALEM, THE PALESTINIANS, REFUGEES, AND BORDERS. AND IT HAS BEEN EVERYBODY'S ASSUMPTION THAT IF WE HAVE A POSITION ON BORDERS THE POSITION IS THAT SOME MODIFICATION WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES. AND THE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL HAS JUST RESTATED THIS, ADMITTEDLY AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW, BUT IT COULD BE THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. CAN WE TRY ONE MORE TIME AND ASK YOU IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED ITS MIND ABOUT RECTIFYING BORDERS?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE FROM WHAT I'VE SAID.

Q. LET ME ASK YOU THE QUESTION THIS WAY. I SEEM TO END UP WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT WHAT YOU HAVE SAID IS THAT AS A RESULT OF THREE MONTHS OF REASSESSMENT YOU WILL HAVE NO POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, AS THE PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED, AND SO HAS THE SECRETARY, THE REASSESSMENT ISN'T COMPLETED.

Q. YOU'RE SAYING YOU CHOOSE NOT TO SPEAK PUBLICLY TO THIS ISSUE?

A. WE'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG, AND I THINK ONE OF THE POINTS OF THE STATEMENT YESTERDAY WAS THAT WE'RE TRYING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE PARTIES THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT IN HIS PERSONAL EXPRESSION THE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL HAS SPOKEN OUT OF TURN?

A. NO, LOOK, HE SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. HAVING BEEN PRESENT IN THIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR, PERHAPS I SHOULD REPEAT WHAT HE SAID EXACTLY, AND THEN PERHAPS YOU COULD COMMENT ON IT.

WE ASKED HIM WHETHER HE CONSIDERED THE 1967 BORDERS AS SECURE AND DEFENSIBLE. AND HE SAID, "NO, I WOULD NOT DEFINE THEM AS SECURE AS CERTAIN CHANGES HAVE TO BE MADE TO SATISFY THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF ISRAEL. THE EXTENT OF THESE CHANGEY I CANNOT DISCUSS.

A. AND HE ALSO SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. HE DID NOT SAY THAT IN THIS CONTEXT.

A. HE ALSO TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS EXPREYSING HIS PERSONAL OPINION.

Q. WHAT'S HIS PERSONAL OPINION ON THE STATUS OX JERUSALEM? DO YOU KNOW THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T.

Q. WAS THERE ANY CONTACT WITH THE LEADERS OF OPEC NATIONS EITHER PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR OIL PRICES TO REMAIN?

A. NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO SEE MR. GROMYKO SET FOR THE FIRST WEEK OR SO IN JULY?

A. NO DATE OR PLACE HAS BEEN SET YET.
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Q. IS THAT GOING TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY OTHER VISITS ANYWHERE ELSE?

A. THERE ARE NO OTHER VISITS PLANNED AT THIS POINT, SO I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE151619
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750224-1032
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506102/baaaantb.tel
Line Count: 372
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971106
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
GENEVA
KUWAIT

JIDDA
DHRAHAN
TEL AVIV
TUNIS
JERUSALEM
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ABU DHABI
ALGIERS
DUBLIN
CINCEUR
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006